THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 414 vessels of 9.65 Million Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT), both Coastal and Overseas, as on 30.11.1991.

(b) and (c). There is no specific proposal to enhance the shipping tonnage for inter–port movement of cargo. However, requests for acquisition of such vessels are considered by Government as and when these are received.

Acquisition of New Ships

4934. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minster of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of new ships by the shipping industry has suffered a set back in the past few years due to non–availability of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether non–availability of Indian ships has resulted in increased dependence on foreign flag ships for transportation of cargo there by enlarging the outflow of foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the amount of expenditure being incurred by the Government currently (in foreign exchange) on account of freight charges being paid to foreign shipping lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The reduced availability of free foreign exchange during 1990–91 and 1991–92 has been a significant factor in slowing down the acquisition of ships by Indian shipping industry.

(b) The precise impact is not yet apparent.

(c) The amount of expenditure incurred by Government in foreign exchange cannot be precisely assessed. However, the share of Indian lines in India's overseas trade during 1990–91 has been provisionally assessed at 35.6% and the balance cargo is moving by foreign lines for which the freight is being paid in foreign exchange.

Single Window Facility in Banks for Non–Resident Indians

4935. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the names of the banks which have opened centres for Non–resident Indian to provide single window facilities for services like management of accounts, investment and portfolio management, taxation advice and counselling

(b) the location of such bank branches where such centres have been set up; and

(c) the response fo NRIs thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that so far only State Bank of India has opened centres at Bombay and New Delhi for this purpose.

(c) According to RBI, no information is available in this regard.

International Container Handling Terminal at Vypeen

4936. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minster of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken